

Mississippi BAPTISTS GEARED FOR CHURCH GROWTH

MAY 19 1978

(Cartooning courtesy of Joe McKeever)

WHAT ACTION DID FOR OUR CHURCH...

FAIRVIEW, COLUMBUS

- HELD ACTION THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL
- ENROLLED 155 FOR BIBLE STUDY
- ATTENDANCE WENT FROM AN AVERAGE OF 425 IN MARCH TO 475 FOR FIRST TWO SUNDAYS OF APRIL.
- 55 MEMBERS TOOK PART IN THE TASK FORCE.
- DR. GENE HENDERSON IS PASTOR.

SAND RIDGE, LAKE

- ENROLLED 79 DURING ENROLLMENT WEEK.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT INCREASED TO 165.
- ON WELCOME SUNDAY, THERE WERE 6 ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCH.
- PASTOR KENNETH WEST STATES, "OUR EYES WERE OPENED AND OUR CHURCH SET ON FIRE FOR THE LORD!"

ASSOCIATIONAL ACTION CAMPAIGN

APRIL - RANKIN
MAY 5 - YAZOO
SEPTEMBER -

SEPTEMBER (CONTINUED)
MONTGOMERY
NEWARK
NEWTON
NOXUBEE
OKTIBBEHA
PRENTISS
SCOTT
SMITH
SUNFLOWER
TIPPAM
UNION
WAYNE
WALTHALL

OCTOBER - LEE

GOOD NEWS TO YOUR CHURCH!

An Action Campaign Director is provided at no expense when five or more churches participate in an associational action campaign.

CONTACT: Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Dept.
P.O. BOX 530 JACKSON, MS. 39205
Phone - 354-3704

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH GET INTO ACTION?

★ IF YOUR ASSOCIATION ALREADY HAS AN ACTION CAMPAIGN SCHEDULED, GET IN ON IT BY TELEPHONING YOUR DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS OR MODERATOR.

BUT MY ASSOCIATION HAS NOT SCHEDULED ONE YET. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- ORDER ACTION MANUAL*
- SET ACTION DATE FOR CHURCH
- SET READY FOR ACTION (USE ACTION PLANS OUTLINED IN MANUAL)
- PREPARE MATERIALS
- CONDUCT ACTION
- REPORT AT ACTION RESULTS

*ORDER FROM MATERIAL SERVICES DEPT.
127 NINTH AV. N., NASHVILLE, TN. 37234

Volunteers And Sponsors Mission Service Corps

The primary concept behind the Mission Service Corps is that the sponsors will be closely related to the volunteers. Many volunteers will know their sponsors, and will be in close touch with them. Others will not know their sponsors. Persons who want to volunteer may write to Box 7203, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. Persons who want to sponsor, but do not personally know a volunteer, may send money through the regular church channels specifically designated for Mission Service Corps. Contributions may also be sent direct to the state Baptist office, designated for Mission Service Corps. For full information on sponsorship, write to Box 7203, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. Sponsors will be volunteers as there will be no church by church solicitation for the Mission Service Corps.



Graham Preaches To Inmates

Evangelist Billy Graham preached to more than 800 inmates from three prisons in Memphis, Tenn., during the Billy Graham crusade in Memphis. It was the first time that Graham had preached to inmates from three different prisons representing county, state, and federal prisons in one location. Prisoners from the state prison and county penal farm marched under tight security to the federal prison to hear Graham, who was introduced by Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton. (BP) PHOTO by Jim Newton.

New Israeli Law

Baptists Claim Harassment In Questioning Of Minister

By Elizabeth F. Smith
JERUSALEM, Israel (BP) — Jewish Christian minister Baruch Maoz was summoned to a police station and questioned "for his own protection from religious extremists," police authorities told David Efrati, director of ecclesiastical affairs in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Baptists and others believe that the action is harassment related to the new law passed making it a criminal

offense to offer any benefits for the changing of one's religion. Maoz, editor of a Christian quarterly in Hebrew and director of Hagefen Publishing House in Rishon Letzion, believes the police explanation for his summons is a cover-up of the real intention to intimidate Israeli Jewish believers under the new law. A news story out of Israel had stated that police had asked Maoz to give an account of all of his activities and to

list all of his friends and acquaintances.

"Previous threats to implement the law to impede Christian liberty of expression now take on an ominous reality," Maoz said.

Efrati is trying to set up a meeting between Maoz and police officials, in consultation with the attorney general, to determine why police ignored the attorney general's orders "not to initiate an investigation under this law without the complaint being first brought before the attorney general of the state attorney."

Robert L. Lindsey, veteran Baptist leader in Israel, said, "The fact that such an incident could occur despite the firm assurance of high Israeli authorities that the new law would not affect the normal operation of Christian institutions and ministers underlines the need to continue to expose this new law as a breach of accepted

retired at 65 include only those whose annuity income from the company or organization retiring them exceeds \$27,000 yearly. This figure does not include Social Security benefits or retirement benefits earned during previous periods of employment. The new law sets no date for bringing this provision to an end.

According to congressional staff members in both the House and Senate, churches and church groups are not exempted from the provisions of the law, just as they were not exempted from the previous ban against forced retirement before age 65.

Nevertheless, no organization which employs fewer than 20 persons is subject to coverage.

What this means in Baptist life is that the vast majority of local congregations may continue to set their own retirement policies. Those congregations with large staffs of more than 20, however, will be required to comply.

Similarly, state Baptist conventions and Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions will be required to extend their mandatory retirement policies to age 70 if they employ more than 20 persons.

Mrs. O'Hair Promises Litigation

SAN ANTONIO (RNS) — Earlier this year, atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair promised that 1978 would be a "year of litigation" on behalf of her causes. And, considering numerous court suits currently in progress, she apparently meant it.

Mrs. O'Hair, who lives in Austin, came here recently to discuss these suits. She vehemently defended her atheist position, when she appeared on a local radio talk-show whose format allows listeners to call in and talk with the guest.

When program host Allan Dale asked Mrs. O'Hair what she is "cooking up" in the courts, Mrs. O'Hair said she is: 1) trying to halt churches from using bingo games as fund-raising projects in Texas; 2) trying to have the motto "In God We Trust" removed from U. S. coins and currency; 3) seeking to halt prayers at all public functions; and 4) seeking a ban on placing

Hopewell To Celebrate 150th Anniversary

Hopewell Church, Crystal Springs, will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sunday, May 28.

Former pastor Dewie Williams will bring the morning message at 11. Sunday School will begin at 10.

A book, "History of Hopewell Baptist Church," will be given to each family as they register.

"Bring your picnic basket and join us in fellowship hall for lunch. Afternoon services will begin at 1:30, consisting of specials and congregational selections of favorite hymns," says Mrs. Crawford Bell, church member. Riley Ainsworth is pastor.

The new law takes effect, January 1, 1979, for non-federal employees. Federal employees will be covered as of September 30, 1978.

In an interview with Baptist Press, a

Emergency Project

Jones Countians Head For Honduras To Help

A group of eight Baptist men from Jones County left May 14 for an emergency repair trip to Honduras.

The eight will make repairs to a water pipe causing contaminated water supplies in the village of Gualcince, Honduras.

The trip came about after James Cecil of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board met Bert Jones, minister of Education for First Baptist Church in Laurel, and Bob Holifield, a dentist and member of the church.

Holifield has been a central figure in the organization of 14 dental and evangelistic trips to Honduras in the past three years. The incorporated group calls itself Honduras Baptist Dental Mission, operated by a group of members at FBC, Laurel.

Holifield and Jones had met with Cecil to offer their services. Shortly thereafter, Cecil phoned Holifield with the emergency request which had originated with David Harms, medical missionary in Tegucigalpa, the Honduras capitol city.

staff member of the Senate Subcommittee on Labor who worked on the legislation said that in any questionable cases of application of the law, he

(Continued on page 2)

Tragedy Strikes Crusade In Participants' Deaths

By Tim Nicholas
Last month, an otherwise highly successful county-wide evangelistic crusade in the Mississippi Delta was marred by the deaths of four young Christian participants.

The two couples were driving home after services of the Central Delta Crusade for Christ at the Mississippi Delta Junior College Coliseum in Moorhead, when their car was struck by another car. The only survivor of the couples' car was the five year old son of one of the couples. Injuries were slight to the occupants of the other car.

The four, Danny and Gayle Walker and Jerry and Dorothy Mitchell, were members of the same Sunday School class at First Baptist Church in Ruleville. Dorothy Mitchell was pregnant and the unborn child was lost. The Mitchell's son Ross, suffered broken legs, a fractured skull, and internal injuries. He is recovering.

But his recovery is likely to be speedier than that of the community and church. Ruleville pastor A. M. "Sonny" Moore, said of the four, "They were the heartbeat of the church."

Moore had just led Jerry Mitchell to Christ last October in Mitchell's living room. He had visited them a year earlier and hadn't gotten past the front door. That night he was ready. "Jerry's wife told my wife that their marriage had been like a honeymoon since he'd come to know the Lord."

Moore had met Gayle Walker 16

1978: Is This The Year For Tuition Credits?

By Carol Franklin
WASHINGTON (BP) — Despite determined opposition and serious constitutional questions, this could be the year for tuition tax credits. Support for such legislation appears almost unbeatable in Congress at this time.

The House of Representatives has sent the most recent message that it reads the public mood as favoring tuition tax credits and it intends to satisfy the public regardless of administration opposition or heavy lobbying by the public school interests.

The House Budget Committee recommended strongly against adoption of any provision for tuition tax credits in the budget resolution for 1979. That recommendation met a head-on challenge when the resolution reached the floor for debate. By a 227 to 136 vote, the House voted to make

room in the budget for \$635 million in tuition tax credits. That amendment, introduced by U. S. Rep. Thomas A. Luken, D-Ohio, replaced an earlier amendment by Rep. Lawrence Coughlin, R-Penn., calling for \$500 million in tuition tax credits.

This budget resolution is not binding. It serves as an advisory for legislation in the next few months. A final budget resolution in September will be binding. The new fiscal year will begin October 1.

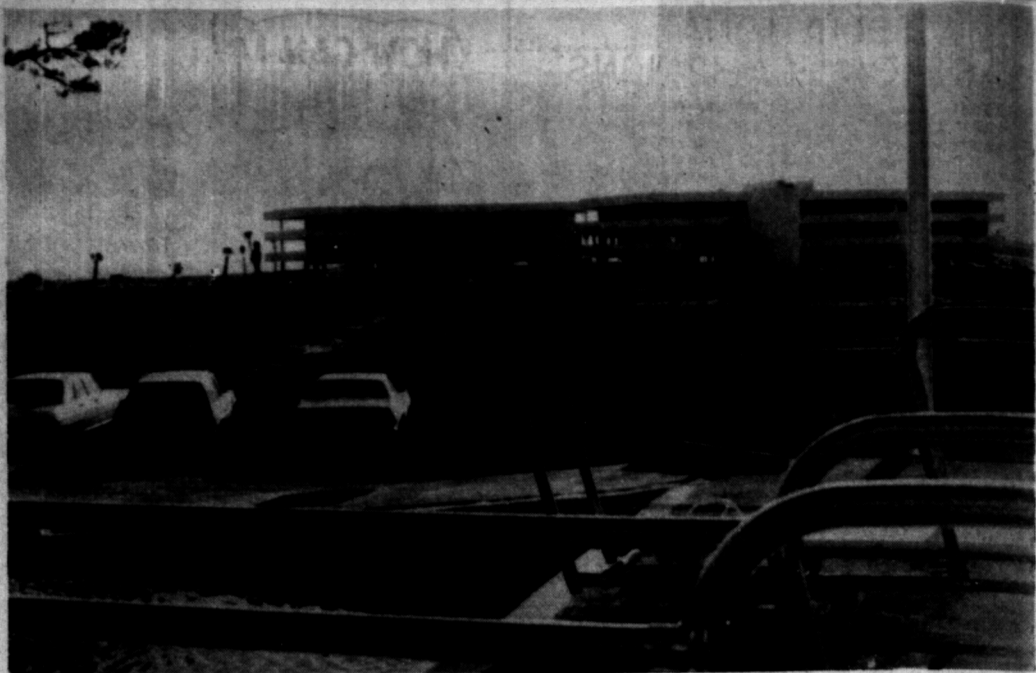
In the past, the Senate has approved tuition tax credit legislation six times. In February of this year, the Senate Finance Committee approved a bill (H. R. 3946, the so-called Packwood-Moynihan Bill) which would provide a tax credit of 50 percent to a \$250 maximum for college stu-

(Continued on page 2)

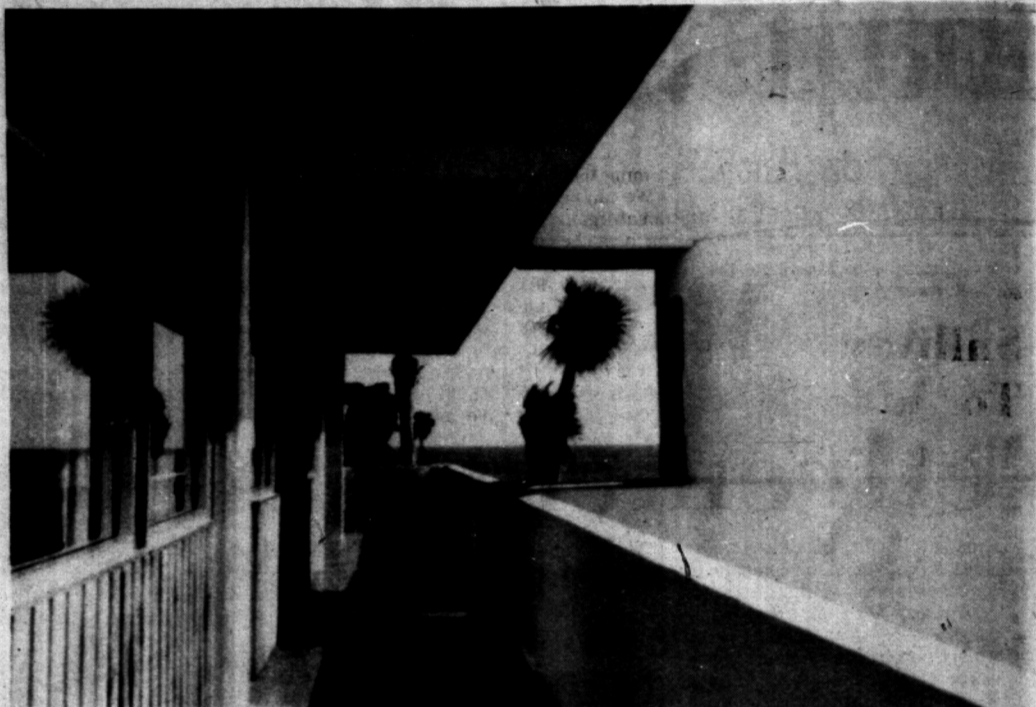


MC Students Tutor Village Kids

Mississippi College student Elizabeth Young, top, has been spending Thursday nights with Ronnie Roberson at the Baptist Children's Village, helping him with problem study areas. Nearly 65 MC students have been involved in the tutoring program.



The main building was officially named the Chester L. Quarles Building. In foreground is the swimming pool



Passageway to the stairwell, on an upper balcony at Gulfshore, frames the sky and sea.



Program personalities at the Gulfshore dedication included, left to right: David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor, Jackson; Bob Hamblin, pastor of Harrisburg, Tupelo, and president, Mississippi Baptist Convention; Brooks Wester, pastor, First Church, Hattiesburg; Beverly Tinnin, pastor of



First Church, Meridian; James L. Sullivan, retired former president of Sunday School Board, SBC; and Douglas Hudgins, retired, former executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Jeff Davis Men To Build Church In Montana

Jefferson Davis Association has approved a recommendation to ask the association's churches to support a group of laymen traveling to Montana on a Bold Mission Project to help with the construction of a church building in Harlowton.

Each church of the association was asked to contribute \$150 toward materials for the project, and churches that will have laymen traveling on the project were asked to take special offerings to help with expenses.

Churches Must Comply With Retirement Law

(Continued from page 1)

expects the courts to rule that virtually everyone is covered.

Asked about the self-employed status of local pastors, he predicted that in churches whose staffs exceed 20, pastors will be protected from forced retirement before age 70.

At the agency and institutional level of Southern Baptist life, the implications of the new law are clear. Simply stated, after Jan. 1, 1979, no employee

can be forced to retire before age 70 if the agency or institution employs more than 20 persons.

Congressional leaders who pushed through the legislation have promised that their next step will be to seek elimination of any age limit for mandatory retirement.

(Stan Hastey is on the staff of The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.)

Baptist Seminary Sets Commencement Exercises

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary is holding its 35th annual commencement exercises Friday, June 2.

The exercises will be held at the College Hill Baptist Church, 1600 Florence Street, Jackson at 10:00 A.M. R. E. Willis is pastor of the church.

Richard Brogan of the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is Acting President of the Seminary which is operated by a Biracial Board of Trustees.

Special music will be presented by the choir of the College Hill Baptist Church. The Commencement address will be delivered by Leon Bell, pastor of New Mount Zion Baptist Church and Hyde Park Baptist Church, both in Jackson. He is also chairman of the board of trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

Others on the program are L. V. Powell, R. E. Willis, A. I. Jones, S. L. Bowman, G. L. Ford, William P. Davis, W. T. Guice and Albert Durham.

The following pledge will be taken by the 75 graduates:

"I hereby solemnly pledge unbroken



Bell

allegiance to my Alma Mater in appreciation for the opportunities for Christian experiences and development it has afforded me. I pledge active membership in the Mississippi Baptist Seminary National Alumni Association, wherever I may be. I pledge, as a person, to exemplify high ideals in my life's work and to serve well the community where God calls me."

Coast Teachers Volunteer

Two schoolteachers, one from Pascagoula and one from Vancleave, will be mission volunteers this summer at Kamiah and Pierce, Idaho.

The two, Virginia Storie and Wanda Hill, both members of Arlington Heights Baptist Church in Pascagoula, will serve as Christian Service Corps volunteers, working in Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Clubs, puppet ministries, church drama and visitation.

Christian Service Corps is a totally volunteer organization, coordinated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The short term version of CSC asks volunteers to give two to ten weeks of mission service, paying their own expenses.

Virginia and Wanda, raising their own support, have sponsored "play Day" at their church for children, a "Rock-A-Thon," and a garage sale. In addition, the Jackson County Baptist Association made a donation to help finance the trip.

Miss Hill teaches at Pascagoula Junior High School; Miss Storie at Vancleave School.

More Gulfshore



Mrs. J. B. Parker and Mrs. O. M. Jones visit the assembly's Baptist Book Store. Mrs. Jones, who is retired and lives in Memphis, was formerly manager of the Baptist Book Store in Jackson. Mrs. Parker's husband, before his death, was chaplain for many years at Baptist Hospital in Jackson.



A reception was held in the cafeteria following the dedication ceremonies.



Old friends get together at the new assembly: Gordon Sansing, Mrs. Ralph Winders, Ralph Winders, Mrs. Gordon Sansing. Winders is director, state department of student work. Sansing, pastor, Arrowwood, Meridian, was formerly secretary of the state department of evangelism.



John Bloskas, left, vice-president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas, Tex., was present to honor W. R. Roberts, right, and present him a plaque on behalf of the Annuity Board. Roberts, Mississippi's Annuity representative, retired April 30.



Betty Dedeaux, above and Kathy Red, not pictured, work in the laundry at Gulfshore.

1978: Is This The Year For Tuition Credits?

(Continued from page 1)

dents and postsecondary vocational students effective Aug. 1, 1978. In 1980, the Senate version would increase to a \$500 maximum. The eligibility would expand to include elementary and secondary students. Graduate and part-time students would be added in 1981. This bill would make the credit refundable.

The House has given a cool reception to the idea of tuition tax credits in past years. However, last fall 311 representatives voted to include such credits in the final budget resolution for 1978. The necessary legislation to implement that vote was not passed.

In this session of the 95th Congress, more than half the members of the House have indicated support for some form of education tax credit. Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, opposes tuition tax credits but agreed to hold hearings and vote out a bill because of the strong sentiment in the House. The bill voted out was considerably watered down from earlier proposals. H. R. 12050 would provide a credit of 25 percent to a maximum of \$100 for college students, postsecondary vocational students and half-time students effective Aug. 1, 1978. In 1979, the maximum would increase to \$150

and to \$250 in 1980. The House version makes the credit non-refundable.

Amendments on the House floor are expected which would restore the credit to 50 percent and include parents of nonpublic elementary and secondary school children. An alternate proposal is also expected which would substitute tax deferral for the tax credit.

The popularity of tuition tax credits seems to stem from two factors — a taxpayer reaction to the high cost of everything and growing disenchantment with public schools.

At a pro-tuition tax credit rally held at Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, about 50 Catholic supporters of the legislation gathered to protest the "anti-Catholic bigotry" which supposedly motivates opponents of the credits and to attack President Carter's alleged failure to keep his campaign promise to find constitutional means of aiding the parents of private school children.

Opponents of the tuition tax credits have sounded the alarm charging that such credits would do irreparable harm to the public school system, which has contributed to the unity of our nation, and would also violate the First Amendment to the Constitution, which provides for separation of

church and state.

James E. Wood, Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, charges, "Serious constitutional questions would be raised by such legislation in view of major decisions made by the U. S. Supreme Court during the present decade outlawing public funds for parochial schools."

President Carter has strongly opposed tuition tax credits. He has said that he probably would veto any such legislation and is pushing for expanded education loan programs for middle income families instead.

Congressional strategy is not yet clear. If proponents really mean to pass tuition tax credits, they will probably attach an amendment to a veto-proof bill. However, if they are merely seeking political points at home they may pass a "clean" bill which the president can veto, leaving them free to claim to have done all they could for the folks back home.

Failing a presidential veto, or if Congress overrides a veto, opponents are depending on the Supreme Court to rule against tuition tax credits in any legal challenge.

(Carol Franklin is on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs)

First Speakers Named For Men's Breakfasts

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Mississippi country comedian Jerry Clower, physical fitness specialist Kenneth H. Cooper and seminarian Gaines S. Dobbins head the first wave of program personalities enlisted for the 19 vocational breakfasts at the National Conference of Baptist Men on June 16 in Atlanta following the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting.

Clower, Grand Ole Opry star and active member of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, will keynote a breakfast for Baptists in sales, expected to attract 650 to the Mediterranean Room of the Atlanta Stadium Hotel.

Before going into show business, Clower directed sales at Mississippi Chemical Corporation, an agricultural fertilizer manufacturer.

Cooper, developer of aerobics, a physical fitness plan used by the United States Navy and Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force, will address 1,000 at a breakfast for Baptists in health services in the Lancaster-Essex Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Author of the book, "Aerobics," Cooper is a member of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas.

Dobbins, of Birmingham, Ala., 91-year-old emeritus professor of religious education and administration at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will deliver a challenge to 1,100 Baptists facing retirement at a breakfast in the International Ballroom of the Omni International Hotel.

Rounding out the program for retired Baptists are presentations by

Lloyd Wright, director of public relations for the American Association of Retired Persons, Washington; Representative Claude Pepper (D-Fla.); Olen S. Miles of Driftwood, retired builder and president of Texas Baptist Men; Mrs. Doris Wood of Parkin, Arkansas, longtime literacy and Vacation Bible School worker, and the Senior Adult Choir of First Baptist Church, Rome, Ga.

Programs at each of the breakfasts will feature Baptists who are nationally known in their vocations.

Other vocational breakfasts are scheduled for Baptists in agriculture, arts, business and professional positions, church-related vocations, communications, education, engineering, government, law enforcement, legal professions, management, military, technical skills, sports, transportation, and young adults in search of a vocation.

The two-hour breakfasts, which start at 7 a. m., make up the first part of a double feature at the national men's conference.

The second feature is a 90-minute rally at the Omni Coliseum, with President Jimmy Carter scheduled as the principal speaker. It starts at 11 a. m.

Registration for the conference, including the breakfast and rally, is \$12.50. The conference is open to families. Persons wanting tickets should write the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar, Memphis, Tenn. 38104. Indicate the breakfast preferred and enclose a check.



Mississippi RA Campcraft Leaders

Six RA Campcraft Leaders from Mississippi helped inaugurate a Convention-wide Royal Ambassador Adult Campcraft Training Program last weekend (April 20) in Memphis. Left to right, Rickey Newman, Rusty Griffin, Dan West, Ed Growther, Doug Day, and Joe Waggeners were among the 45 Royal Ambassador Campcraft leaders who helped kick off the program. The program, first of its kind for the Convention, is designed to teach men how to teach campcraft skills to boys. Royal Ambassador leaders will take courses in three levels of campcraft — Basic, Standard, and Advanced. Completion of the courses will qualify the men to teach campcraft skills to boys. A man may also earn an instructor's certification to teach the courses to adult leaders. State Brotherhood departments will administer the program, with actual certification coming from a national Royal Ambassador campcraft committee. (Brotherhood Commission Photo by Mike Davis.)

Camp Counselors Needed

The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is taking applications for its Royal Ambassador Summer Camping Program for 1978. Those interested should contact Rusty Griffin, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 354-3704.

Requirements for staff assistants are: to be a Christian, an active member of a Baptist church and of high school age. "The monetary benefits you will receive," says Griffin, "are none. But the blessings are unnumbered. Being a staff assistant will help to prepare you for a staff position in the future."

A staff member should also be a Christian, but of college age. Monetary benefits, according to Griffin, are small.

Summer camps will be conducted in four spots around the state.

Resident Camps: 1st Session — June 12-16 — Dorrah Lake Camp, Bellefontaine; 2nd Session — July 3-7 — Dorrah Lake Camp, Bellefontaine; 3rd Session — July 24-28 — Dorrah Lake Camp, Bellefontaine; 4th Session — August 14-18 — Paul Johnson State Park, Hattiesburg; (for boys grades 4-12, special emphasis: camping skills, crafts, swimming).

Crusader Mini-Camps: 1st Mini-week — August 7-9 — Camp Garaywa, Clinton; 2nd Mini-week — August 9-11 — Camp Garaywa, Clinton; (for boys grades 1-6, special emphases: crafts,

swimming, nature study, advancement).

Pioneer Sports Camps: 1st Session — June 19-23 — Mississippi College, Clinton; 2nd Session — June 26-30 — Mississippi College, Clinton; (for boys grades 7-12, special emphases: developing skills in basketball, football, softball, swimming).

Sullivan To Address MC Graduates

James L. Sullivan, past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will address the 1978 Mississippi College graduates as the college stages its 152nd commencement exercises on Sunday, May 21, in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on the college campus.

A native of Lawrence County, Miss., Sullivan earned the B. A. degree from Mississippi College in 1932. He was awarded the Th.M. in 1935 from the Southern Seminary and received honorary doctor of divinity degrees from both Mississippi College and Campbell College. Before retirement he was president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

The Missions Task

Don't Go To Sleep!

By John Alexander, Director, Stewardship Department

The taking of rest in sleep is necessary for man's health and happiness. There are times to sleep and there are times to stay awake. For one to fall asleep at the wheel of his automobile can be fatal!

Jesus had a problem with weary and sleeping disciples. He eventually said to them, "Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners" (Matt. 26:45).

These are not times for God's people to be asleep. Every one of us needs to be awake, alert, and active in the most exciting and challenging venture of our time. It is called BOLD MISSION: giving the gospel to every person in all the world by A. D. 2000.

It was indeed tragic for Jesus' disciples to be asleep when he needed their aid and comfort. It is no less tragic today for church leaders, workers, and members to sleep through one of the most significant opportunities of the century, if not Christian history. A few committed souls cannot do the job before us. Every Baptist is needed, wide awake, and ready to respond. Every church is needed alert and responding intelligently as plans and projects are set in motion all over the world.

The time has come to take the offensive, for every man to stand in his place, for a unified effort to make an onslaught of the realms of spiritual darkness. Business, even church business, as usual must be abandoned for higher ground. We never know how far we can reach until we stretch and the time to stretch has come!

What can you and I do to help awaken the churches to the challenge and opportunity of this hour?

We can pray. Every church can be called regularly to prayer for a great spiritual awakening in America and the world. The kind of prayer I am speaking of is not routine prayer. It is supplemental, intercessory, importunate prayer. May I request you and your church to get on your knees in the interest of a worldwide awakening?

We can preach. God chose preaching. It is a method that informs, inspires, and asks for action. If we have any "preach" left in us, surely this is the time to let some of it out! The churches must be informed and challenged if they are to commit themselves and their substance to God.

We can project programs. Available to every church are the church educational organizations that sustain a regular teaching and training ministry. All of them can be utilized in preparation for advance.

We can put our efforts into a common objective — witness in all the world. On December 8, 1941, hundreds of actions were launched by thousands of different departments, agencies, and groups but everything was focused on one objective: to win the war. Ours was a country cooperating to accomplish a common objective. There is strength in unity!

It is time again for all of us, every church, every association, every board, agency, and institution to get into the effort with maximum commitment. Our people must pray, give, and go that all the world may know Him!

Claim Harrassment In Questioning . . .

(Continued from page 1)
democratic freedoms of religious practice."

The moderator of Israel Baptist Mission, Norman F. Lytle, said, "It is evident that the law is being used as an opportunity for legitimizing the usual harassment of believers and thus indicates the real danger in this law."

"At this point, I don't see the threat of arrest of any of our Baptist ministers, but we may be subjected to harassment," Lytle said.

Maoz believes that the law is intended to be used against local Jewish believers and not against expatriate Christians "who have backing from abroad."

This opinion is also held by Roy Kreider, vice chairman of the United Christian Council and convener of that

group's special Christian Monitoring Committee set up to handle all matters relating to this law.

"We early came to the conclusion that the target of attack would be the Israeli Jewish believer, although the messianic assemblies here believed that the law was aimed at the missions and the churches sponsored from abroad. Now the assembly leaders are shocked at the incident involving Maoz," Kreider said.

"We are carefully investigating all cases of harassment of local believers and seeking solidarity and support from such groups as the American Jewish Committee and the Israel Interfaith Committee," he said.

Elizabeth (Mrs. James W.) Smith is Southern Baptist press representative in Israel.



Pearl River Youths Drill In Bible

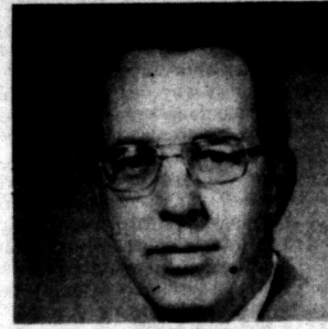
Forty young people representing churches in Pearl River County participated in the Pearl River associational Bible Drills April 23 at First Church, Carriere. The Bible Drill is a program of the Church Training Department. Twenty-six participated in the Children's Drill and 14 in the Youth Drill. Churches represented were: Faith Memorial, Goodyear, Juniper Grove, Union, Unity, and First, Carriere. The majority of these went on to become winners in the state drills at First, Biloxi. In addition, two young people from First, Carriere represented the Pearl River Association in the Youth Speaker Tournament at the Baptist Building in Jackson on May 6. Matty Jo Fox is the Pearl River Bible drill director.



Frank Pollard

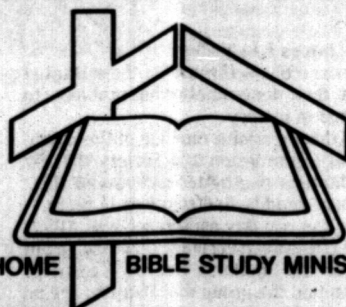


Bryant Cummings



John Ishee

There's New Excitement About Bible Teaching



HOME BIBLE STUDY MINISTRIES

YOU ARE INVITED TO

- Preview pilot tape of "At Home With the Bible," a new radio/TV program starting October 1
- Hear Frank Pollard, radio/TV Bible teacher and host for "At Home With the Bible," relate his vision of reaching people for Bible study
- Hear Bryant Cummings, state Sunday School director, describe how churches can promote this new ministry
- Hear John Ishee, Home Bible Study Curriculum Developer, explain the printed curriculum and grading system
- Discover how this bold, new effort can reach masses of people for Bible study at home

First Baptist Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
May 25, 1978 — 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.



Sponsored by the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Gulfshore Committee Members . . .

A "Thank You" To Each

Conferences at Gulfshore are in full swing again after a nine-year hiatus. Soon people, young and old, will be swarming over the place, and they will be enjoying themselves; but also they will be hearing the voice of God, and they will be responding.

A number of people have worked very hard to bring these conditions about. In fact, committees have been at work since Hurricane Camille swept along the coast in 1969 to determine what needs to be done about our property at Gulfshore. Piece by piece the parts have been put back together in a much grander fashion than was the case before Camille, and many people are owed tremendous debts of gratitude.

As a simple means of saying "thank you" on the part of Mississippi Baptists, here are listed the committee members who have worked from the time they first began a study in 1969 until the dedication of the new

Gulfshore on May 5.
Assembly Study Committee
1969-70-71

Beverly Tinnin, Meridian, chairman; Gail DeBord, Long Beach, now Baton Rouge; Dan Morton, Indianola; Ralph Reeves, McComb; James N. Roberts, Oxford.

Assembly Study Committee
1971-72

A. Estus Mason, Crystal Springs, chairman; Theron Baldwin, Pontotoc; Perry Claxton, Greenville; David Grant, Jackson; Oliver Ladnier, Magee; M. F. Rayburn, Meridian (now deceased); Beverly Tinnin, Meridian.

Steering Committee
1972-73

Beverly Tinnin, Meridian, chairman; Hayes Callicutt, Jackson; James Gatewood, Columbus; Burtis Harper, Morton; M. F. Rayburn, Meridian, (now deceased).

Gulfshore Restoration Committee
1974-75-76-77-78

Brooks Wester, Hattiesburg, chairman; Frank Gunn, Biloxi; Robert Hamblin, Tupelo; Henry Holman, Jackson; Glenn Perry, Philadelphia; Gene Triggs, Yazoo City.

Fund Raising Committee
1973-74

David Grant, Jackson, General Chairman. **Church Division:** Bill Causey, Jackson Chairman.

Area Chairmen and Subchairmen: Barry Landrum, Greenville (now Bossier City, La.); Gordon Harold Sansing, Marks (now Pontotoc);

Also, James Richardson, Leland; Levon Moore, Pontotoc (now Kosciusko); John Causey, Corinth; Joel Haire, West Point; Joe Tuten, Jackson; Jim Yates, Yazoo City; John McCall; Vicksburg; Beverly Tinnin, Meridian; Clyde Little, Forest; Raymond Lloyd, Starkville; P. A. "Red" Michel, Brookhaven; Estus Mason, Crystal Springs; Fred Robertson, Natchez; John Barnes, Hattiesburg; Howard Aultman, Columbia; Frank Gunn, Biloxi;

umbia; Frank Gunn, Biloxi;

Special Gifts Division: Henry Holman, Jr., Jackson, Statewide Chairman; Hayes Callicutt, Jackson, Statewide Vice-chairman.

Area Chairmen: Henry Hederman, Jackson; Zach Hederman, Jackson; Paul W. McMullan, Hattiesburg; John Mobley, Jackson; Gene Triggs, Yazoo City.

The presidents of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the presidents of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the chairmen of the Convention Board Executive Committee, and the executive secretaries of the Mississippi Baptist Convention were ex officio members of all committees during their terms of office. These included W. Douglas Hudgins, Earl Kelly, John McCall, Glenn Perry, David Grant, James Richardson, Robert Hamblin, Harold Kitchings, Raymond Lloyd, Harold Bryson, Gene Triggs, James Hurt, and P. A. Michel.

To Jordan, Israel . . .

Editor "Out Of Town"

As these lines are being read the writer is out of the country on an 11-day visit to Israel and Jordan at the invitation of both nations. Each is paying its portion of the cost.

The trip was initiated by invitation

of the Jordanian government through the help of the missionaries there, and then the missionaries (or representatives) in Israel worked out an opportunity for some time to be spent in their country.

Five Baptist state editors and W. C.

Fields, former editor in Mississippi, are on the trip. Without doubt, each one of us is deeply appreciative of this opportunity.

Each of the six has been to Israel, but none of us has been to Jordan. We

are anxiously awaiting an opportunity to visit those Jordanian sites of biblical interest as well as to revisit some or visit new ones in Israel.

More will be mentioned about the trip upon our return.

Letters To The Editor

Television Ministry
Dear Editor:
Several of the members of First Baptist were particularly interested in your recent article on cable television ministries in local churches. I thought that you might be interested in our cablevision ministry. We have been on the air since January, 1978, through Warner Cable here in Cleveland. At this time we are televising both services on Sunday and special events on Wednesday. We are excited about all the potential programming.

Thank you for your fine work.
J. Scott McLellan
First Baptist Church
Cleveland

Lay Renewal Weekend

Dear Sir:
I am writing to recommend the Lay Renewal Weekend sponsored by the Brotherhood Department. I hope my letter will calm the anxieties of pastors about this opportunity for spiritual growth.

All the team members are members of Southern Baptist Churches. They are also actively involved in the programs of their local churches. The team leaders are trained by the Brotherhood Department of the state convention.

There is no way for me to describe the weekend. One must experience it to believe it. However, the weekend was used of God to make First Baptist Saltillo (already a good church) a better church in which to worship and serve.

Rex Yancey, Pastor
First, Saltillo

Montana Church Needs Workers

Dear Editor:
Our church is in desperate need of Christian workers who feel led to pioneer mission work.

We are located in the extreme western edge of Montana on the Montana-Idaho border just forty-five miles south of Missoula. We live in a beautiful area known as the Bitterroot Valley which is bounded on the west by the Bitterroot range of the Rockies and on the east by the Sapphire range. We are surrounded by vast wilderness areas, tall mountains and sparkling streams. Many people are moving here with deep spiritual needs.

We are looking for a choir director and a Christian school teacher. We are beginning a Christian school Grades 1-12 in September. We are thinking how wonderful it would be if God would call out a husband-wife team to help us in these two areas.

We will be willing to work together so that a livable salary can be provided those interested. Salaries are much lower here and should not be the primary motive for working here. This is a mission area and the desire to win souls and develop Christians should be first consideration.

If you know of someone who may be interested in these positions please have them call or write me immediately.

Contact: Mannon Wallace, Pastor; P. O. Box 729; Hamilton, Montana 59840. Telephone: (406) 363-3735 or (406) 363-3086.

Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Mannon Wallace
Pastor

A Word Of Thanks

Dear Editor:
I have recently received copies of the 1977 Mississippi Baptist Convention Annual. I would like to use this means to thank Mississippi Baptists for their kindness in dedicating the 1977 Annual to the memory of Therman.

His years of work at the Baptist Building and Clarke College were indeed happy years. Pastors, students, his co-workers at the Mississippi Building, and other Baptists throughout the state were all dear to him. He did love so much Mississippi Baptists.

This tribute means much to me and my family. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Therman Bryant

Wrapup

Effect Of History Traced by Baptists

By James Lee Young

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — If some Southern Baptist historians are correct, their denomination has problems to iron out that are rooted in history.

Speakers indicated during a joint meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Society that by looking at history, Baptists can better understand their own problems and more readily find solutions to them.

Setting the pace for the two-day conference was Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. McClellan told the group that Baptists are no longer a homogenous people, although their "basic dimension" is still doctrinal.

"The Baptist mind of today may be less sharply defined than in the past," McClellan said. "Accelerated communication and lack of sensitive debate in recent times may have brought increased mobility of conviction."

In his address, however, McClellan said there is "a fairly well defined core of theological understanding common to most Southern Baptists," and that is "that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of the Christian faith."

In a related address on sources of authority in Baptist thought, James Leo Garrett Jr., religion professor at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, said the early church saw authority as mediated by Jesus Christ or through the Holy Spirit.

Eventually, he said, the channels through which religious or doctrinal authority was said to be conveyed was through the biblical, ecclesial (creeds, confessions of faith, gifted or duly ordained ministers), and personal. Such "acknowledged" channels, he said, did not rule out the "viability or reality" of an unacknowledged channel, such as culture or society.

H. Leon McBeth, church history professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, traced fundamentalism from its roots and said "most Southern Baptists are Bible believing, conservative people, but most are not fundamentalists."

"The Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies have never, to this point, fallen under control of extreme doctrinaire, fundamentalist forces that were active in the 1920s," he said. But, he noted, Southern Baptist thought has

been greatly shaped and influenced by fundamentalism.

In an address backgrounding the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by SBC messengers in 1963, Herschel H. Hobbs, the man who chaired the committee that wrote the revised statement said the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship (fundamental group founded in 1973) has "no moral right to that name."

The Baptist Faith and Message belongs to Southern Baptists, Hobbs said, "and if it ever comes up at the Southern Baptist Convention, I'm going to remind them of it."

Addressing another controversy among Baptists today, a New Orleans Seminary professor said the so-called charismatic movement has made a "relatively slight impact" on Southern Baptist life and is "declining."

Claude L. Howe Jr., noted, "It's true that small groups of charismatics have emerged in many Southern Baptist congregations — often creating fear and frustration. But if only 100-200 churches of 36,000 or 10,000 members of 13 million (SBC church members)" are charismatics, "the results are not impressive."

Speaking to another, more internal, problem of local churches, Richard D. Patton, chairman of the Historical Commission, warned that Baptist churches are facing a growing problem of "unregenerate church members" by raising a generation of children who have been immersed but may not be Christians.

Patton warned that baptism of preschool age children is an increasing problem among Southern Baptist churches, one that "appears to put us precariously close to the practice of infant baptism."

In the final address, James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., decried the church's failures in the area of human rights, saying it has a "far from unblemished record" in that regard. He said there must be a theological foundation of human rights and the church must see human rights as essential to its mission.

The Historical Commission adopted a \$270,000 budget for 1978-79, of which \$220,000 will come from Cooperative Program funds, subject to approval by SBC messengers in the annual meeting in June.

(Young is editor of The Rocky Mountain Baptist)

ASSOCIATIONAL EMPHASIS WEEK MAY 22-28, 1978

ATLANTA — A large green poster slashed by a downward arrow marks Associational Emphasis Week, May 22-28, 1978, throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

The purpose of the week is to communicate the importance and functions of the association to church members, to create an awareness of the work, according to Jerry Graham, associate director of associational administration service at the Home Mission Board.

The emphasis could be centered around leadership, missions projects, community ministries or other special interests," suggested Graham.

"There could be a commissioning service for volunteer workers who will be involved in association-sponsored

missions projects, both within the area, and away.

In some states, the week is designated a week of prayer for associational missions.

He pointed out that with AEW, Southern Baptists now have a major mission emphasis for each quarter of the year: home, foreign, state and associational missions.

Graham said beyond the one-week emphasis "many states have continuing plans for promotion through special recognitions at their missionary/moderated meetings.

"The association is the only major channel through which the majority of Southern Baptists see the denomination at close range, and in which they participate directly."

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Why has no one ever told me until this year how beautiful it is in Wilkinson County when the dogwood is blooming? In mid-April I went to Gloster to interview Ed Causey, pastor of Ebenezer and Hux (see story on page 5.) He told me that Hux Church has only one deacon, Lawrence McCurley, and that I might find it rewarding to go and see him.

Causey drew a map of the route he suggested I take from Gloster to Hux Church, over toward Centerville. He said the distance was nine miles, and it is, I'm sure, when he drives it. But by the time I had gotten there my speedometer had registered 22 miles. (Actually I didn't mind, for the scenery was so magnificent.)

He told me to turn right after I crossed the railroad in Gloster. I did, but that road soon came to a dead end. Hence I decided I'd misunderstood, and tried the next road. Being a little hesitant about going on, I saw two men in a yard and stopped to ask them if I were on the right road to Hux.

The young man asked the old man the way; then the old man proceeded

to tell me, and the young man said he knew an easier way than that. One said forget the preacher's map and start over, but I thought two sets of directions would really confuse me. The more they talked, the more they argued with each other. When I thanked them and left they were still in hot disagreement. Whoever they are, I'd like to thank them, for I did eventually make it to Hux.

Most of the 22 miles were along gravel roads through thick woods well sprinkled with dogwood, redbud, and yellow jasmine.

Three times I turned down the wrong road; I crossed twisting, shining creeks and climbed hills that looked like small mountains. Once I stopped at a trailer to ask about the church. The woman who came to the door said that I must pass a gravel pit on the paved road to Centerville.

On another wrong road I finally found a house, but nobody was home except the dogs. A hound and a German shepherd began work in earnest on their job as guards. Luckily for me, I can talk to dogs and they respond with friendliness.

I found Hux Church in a sunny clearing in the pine forest. Once a one-room school house, it is a picturesque place.

At Lawrence McCurley's house I spent a delightful hour talking and drinking coffee with the deacon and clerk of Hux Church. He is 82 and she is 78; both have always lived in Wilkinson County. He said he moved in 1925 to the farm where he now lives. They showed me pictures of their four sons and three grandchildren. One son lives in a trailer next door. Another lives in Jackson where he is deacon at First Baptist Church. All of them were baptized in Buffalo Creek, which used to be famous for its swinging bridge.

Vernon Tullos of Clinton, who works with a lumber company and travels through the area often, had told me it was beautiful, and now I believe him.

Stanley Stamps, missionary to Nicaragua who is on furlough, told me I ought to visit Hux Church some time. He was pastor there when he was director of missions for Mississippi Association. I'd like to pass the word on to you. If you're in Wilkinson County on first or third Sunday afternoons, stop by for preaching service. And don't miss meeting Lawrence McCurley. He and Pastor Ed Causey have been very faithful in keeping that church going.

Last Friday I ate lunch at Griffith Memorial Church in Jackson — and it was delicious. Mrs. Cleo Faulkenberry who sat beside me told me that it is traditional to have pot-luck lunches at Griffith every day during spring revival, though there is no noon service.

She said they serve doughnuts and coffee at 6:30 before the 7 a. m. service. (I did not get up in time for that one!) Then a second preaching service is in the evening.

Last week Perry Neal of Montgomery was the preacher and Tom Larrimore of Jackson the music evangelist for the revival. (Wilson Winstead is the pastor.) Tom's wife, Florence, invited me to go with her for the lunch on Friday. It was good to see Nell Cotton again and Mrs. Frankie Bilbo, both former Baptist Building employees.

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Book Reviews

A MIGRANT WITH HOPE by Elizabeth Loza Newby (Broadman, \$2.95, 128 pp.) This is the story of a Mexican-American migrant child who with her family lived for 13 years in the back of a truck. It tells of Elizabeth Newby's struggle for independence and of her spiritual journey. It describes the influence of a Southern Baptist mission in providing spiritual help and renewed hope for migrant families. Elton Trueblood in the introduction says that this story belongs "to the literature of witness, but in a far deeper sense, it belongs to the literature of hope."

AS FOR ME AND MY FAMILY by Florence M. Taylor (Word Books, \$5.95, 147 pp.) Drawing on biblical examples and family life customs in the Old and New Testaments, Mrs. Taylor offers classic models for family fellowship in the 20th century.

Storekeeper Is Pastor Of Oldest And 'Littlest'

By Anne McWilliams

M. E. CAUSEY, DRY GOODS AND SHOES. The store in Gloster is half-way between the Baptist church and the railroad; its proprietor is a bi-vocational pastor.

Ed Causey preaches for two churches — Ebenezer claims to be the oldest Baptist church in the state in continuous existence in one place, and Hux might have a claim to being the smallest church in the state — in quantity, not quality.

"I've owned the store for 30 years," the slender, dignified preacher says. He sits down in a ladder-back chair to await another customer. His white shirt and tie, worn under a sweater, are immaculate. Shoes are stacked along the wall behind him. To his right is a rack of dresses. Men's jackets block his view of the front window.

"One night 17 years ago I was in my bedroom, and I plainly heard God speaking to me." His eyes light up in remembrance. "The Lord said, 'Ed, this is the last time I am going to ask you if you will preach for me.' I felt that if I didn't do as He asked, my life would not be worth much, so I answered, 'Lord, I'm ready to do anything you say.'"

"Soon afterward I was called as pastor of Ebenezer and Hux, and I've served them both ever since."

Causey explains that God first called him to preach when he was 18, but he pretended not to hear, because he definitely did not want to be a preacher.

Born at Liberty where his father was chancery clerk, he graduated from high school at Gloster and went to bus-

iness college in New Orleans. He married Mary Lou Straight who had moved to Gloster when her father was appointed Methodist minister there.

In the Galilee Church at Gloster and in the work of the association he was very active. Chairman of deacons, Training Union director, Sunday School teacher, music director. . . . Yet all the time, deep down, he knew this was not enough.

"For five years as a layman I preached on the radio," he says. "I thought maybe this would satisfy the Lord."

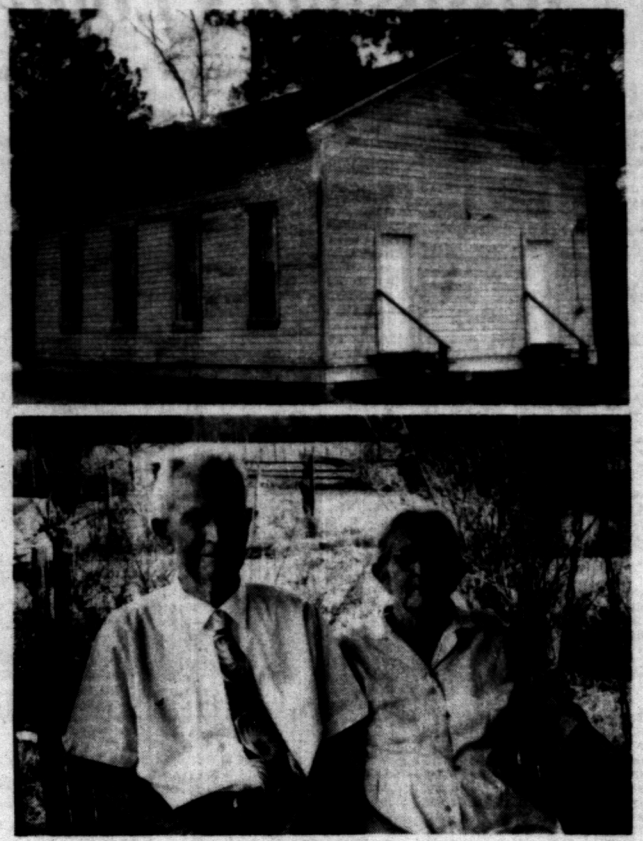
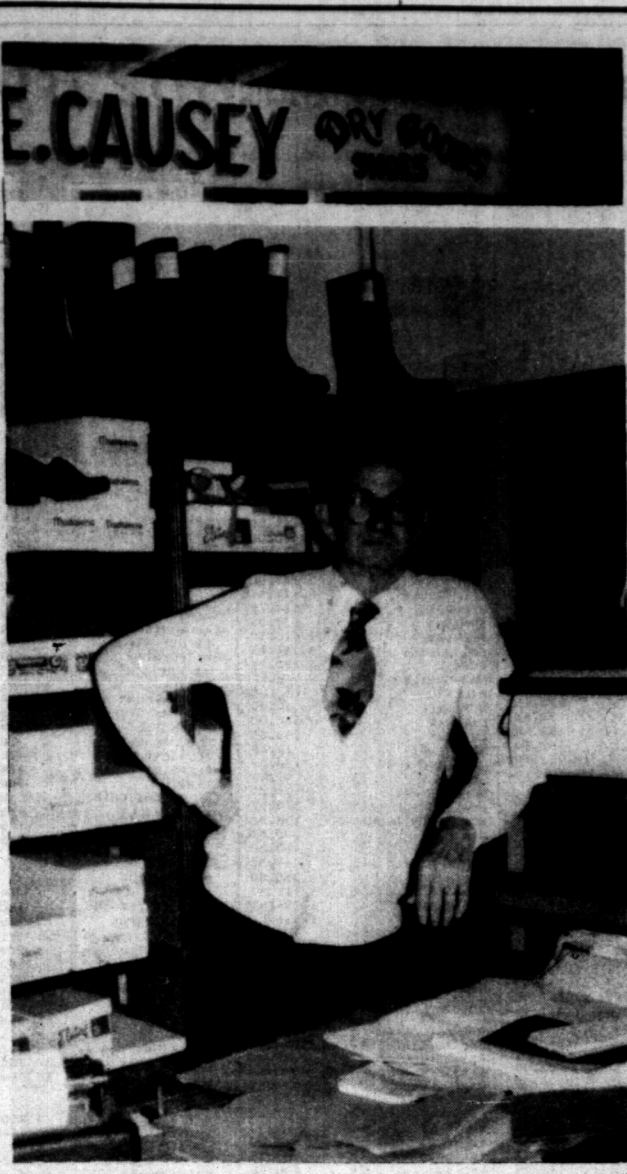
"About the time I finally surrendered to preach, it was time to start sending my four children to college and I could see no way for me to go. I've been studying at night, though, for 17 years."

(He worked in the bank, too, for 11 years to help send his children to school. Two graduated from Mississippi College, one from William Carey, and one from Southern Louisiana. Etta is Mrs. Ben Carlisle, wife of the Baptist pastor at Woodville; Margaret is Mrs. Ritter and lives at Gretna, La.; Billy sells insurance in McComb and Ed is an associate pastor in Louisville, Ky.)

Three women enter the store. One buys a pair of shoes. The preacher wraps them at the counter and returns to his chair.

"Yes, business is pretty good. Gloster population is about 2,000, I guess."

As the clock hands near 12 he prepares to lock the door. His wife will not be home for lunch as she is teaching school. "I close the store on Thursday



Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McCurley, bottom, are deacon and clerk at Hux Church, top. The church was formerly a one-room school.

afternoons," he said. "That's when I do my visiting." "I've never been sorry I listened to the Lord. I've been happy because I felt I was doing what He wanted me to do."

Ebenezer

Causey's pastorates are 20 or 30 miles apart, each 10 or 15 miles from Gloster. Ebenezer is in Amite County, two miles from Louisiana. Hux is in Wilkinson County.

Ebenezer glitters with a new coat of white paint. New picnic tables have been built under the moss-hung oaks. The sanctuary has a new carpet. Last year the 172-year-old church got a modern kitchen, with tile floor and modern equipment. Usually 25 to 30 are present for Sunday School and 50 for worship services.

When a New Orleans woman died she left a bequest of \$45,000 for Ebenezer. The congregation used \$20,000 of this on building improvements and gave 15% to the Cooperative Program.

Ebenezer was organized in 1806, the sixth Baptist church in Mississippi Territory. It claims now to be the oldest in the state in continuous existence in one location.

A marker in the cemetery notes that Richard Curtis organized the Salem Baptist Church near Natchez in 1798. Curtis is buried a short distance from Ebenezer.

Hux

The building at Hux Church was once a one-room school. Lawrence McCurley, age 82, the only deacon, doesn't remember when the school closed, but is sure it was before 1940. His wife, the 78-year-old church clerk, says she has 21 members listed on the

church roll.

Hux is in a heavily forested area where houses and people are few. But those who do live there needed and wanted a church.

Ed Causey preaches there two Sunday afternoons a month — first and third Sundays at 2:30. Usually 11 or 12 attend. The church has no Sunday School or other organizations.

Last fall the members installed space heaters and a butane tank. As a result, this winter, for the first time, the congregation did not sit by a wood-burning stove.

The baptistry still is Buffalo Creek, but two young couples have started coming and have added new vigor.

When neighboring Bethel burned, Hux sent a \$100 love gift. The church gives to the Cooperative Program and sends the Baptist Record to every family.

The McCurleys, both natives of Wil-

kinson County, have been members of Hux since its beginning in 1947. Their four sons all made professions of faith the same night, during a revival at Hux when Sam Waggoner, the first pastor, was still there. The boys were all baptized in the creek. The youngest, Tom, is a deacon now at First Baptist Church, Jackson. Last summer Waggoner returned for revival and homecoming dinner on the grounds. The little church was filled Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday.

Once the church closed for three years. Then Stanley Stamps, now missionary to Nicaragua, reorganized it. Elmer Howell, retired, former director of the state Brotherhood Department, was another of the pastors.

Said Ed Causey, the storekeeper-pastor, "I told them I'd stick with them as long as they'd stick with me!"

Tragedy Strikes Delta Crusade

(Continued from page 1)

said Moore. The couple took a children's Church Training class, and later Danny became president of the couples' Sunday School class Moore teaches.

A year ago, 20 came to the class. Now the church is knocking out a wall to make room for the more than 40 who attend. "A lot of these people were cultivated by these two guys," said Moore.

Some are likely to be coming because of the effect of the Walkers and the Mitchells. Some because of the crusade.

The eight-day crusade April 9-13 registered 198 decisions, including professions of faith, rededications, and declarations for special service. After the crusade, between 25-30 related decisions have been recorded. Granville Watson, director of missions for Sunflower County said that virtually every church in the county got results.

The idea for the crusade grew, more than from any other single thing, when the Baptist associational council met a year ago, the previous year's net gain in membership was three. "This put things in clear focus," said Watson. Evangelist Jack Stanton and musician Jamall Badry were at the top of everyone's list. Both were free during the week suggested for the revival.

Then the 17 Baptist churches in the county invited other denominations to participate. Methodists, Assemblies of God, and the Christian Church joined in the crusade.

The churches hired crusade organizer Bob Saul and ended up with 15 committees which handled everything from prayer breakfasts to witness training to census.

Mike Thrower, pastor of Sunflower Baptist Church said that some people

in the county were surprised to hear from the churches during the crusade census. "This was the first time some had been contacted or felt the church was involved in trying to involve them."

An incomplete listing of prospects for the crusade totaled more than 1,000.

Both the couples — along with about 300 others in the county churches — were eager participants in the planning. Jerry and Danny both took decision counselor's training. Gayle and Dorothy both sang in Jamall Badry's choir and Gayle served as a prayer counselor.

Thursday night during the crusade, the night the four were killed, they were among the last to leave the coliseum. One of the men had won a black college student to the Lord that night. Excerpts from Danny's counseling notes included comments about a couple he'd talked with that night: "She's a Christian, he's not a Christian; he needs prayer."

Danny was buried in his counselor's ribbon.

Wayne Fuels, pastor of Roundaway Baptist Church, near Daddsboro, said that most of the pastors were trying not to capitalize on the emotional aspect of the crusade and the deaths of the four, but many of the pastors, plus evangelist Stanton, said that their story will remain as illustration of commitment for a long time.

Said Fuels, "I don't think God meant to take them. But out of this we can see how God can turn tragedy around."

Pastor Moore said that the church grieved greatly for the four. "People have been marvelous," he said, "One woman had a brother to die — she said she didn't want to bother me."

He reported that a lot of people had commented that it was too bad they had waited to this point to realize their

Christian responsibilities. "One couple told me, 'We're going to take our neighbors' place in God's work in our community and church,'" said Moore.

Moore said he was proud of the



Davenport and Braswell

Mrs. Madalyn O'Hair Promises Litigation

(Continued from page 1)

voting booths in church buildings.

"I'm only hitting at symbolic things," she said, "because I don't have the money to do the suit I want . . . and that is to make the churches pay taxes."

Reminding the radio audience that churches are permitted to hold fundraising bingo games although bingo is illegal in Texas, Mrs. O'Hair charged that this is "selective enforcement" of the law. "If something applies to one person, it should apply to another person equally," she said. She noted that bingo "is outlawed by the constitution of the state of Texas and also outlawed by statutory laws of the state of Texas." She called it "an enormous racket" and claimed the Catholic Church in Texas receives "at least" \$75 million annual from bingo.

"The Baptists are so powerful in the state of Texas that they were able to get laws passed making gambling illegal," she said. "But the Roman Catholic Church is so powerful that they can gamble and thumb their nose at the law."

Mrs. O'Hair said another suit is underway "to stop prayers opening any kind of government activity." She said

Mitchell's and the Walkers — and he was proud of the way the church people despite their grief had begun to fill in the gap left by the four. Said Moore, "the only people who can really grieve are those who really love."

Beth Davenport Wins Speakers' Tournament

Beth Davenport, a member of Calvary Church in Tupelo, was chosen as the winner in the state Youth Speakers' Tournament in Jackson, May 6. Thirteen youths competed in the tournament for the right to represent Mississippi at Glorieta Conference Center this summer.

Beth, along with other state winners will be featured on the conference center program during Church Training Leadership week.

Ron Braswell, First Baptist Church, Grenada, was runner-up.

Beth is a senior at Tupelo High School and plans to enroll at Samford in the fall.

In other church related activities, Beth has won a superior rating in piano and organ festivals sponsored by the Mississippi Church Music Department. She has also achieved Queen Regent in Service in the Acteen's mission organization.

Other accomplishments include being chosen as one of eight students in

Mississippi to attend the Presidential Classroom in Washington, D. C. Beth is ranked second academically in her graduating class. She placed third in the state VFW "Voice of Democracy" speakers contest.

Beth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Davenport of Tupelo.

London (RNS) — Britain's first woman Baptist president said Baptists must continue to be involved in the search for Christian unity as she was installed at the annual Assembly of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland. Mrs. Nell Alexander, 63, and a Cambridge housewife, is the first woman to head the Union.



Other Faiths Examined

Kate Ellen Gruver, right, led a study of Mormon beliefs, during the interfaith witness conference held at First Church, Jackson, May 1 and 2. Mrs. Hollis Bryant of Clinton, left, was one of 22 who enrolled for the conference. Other areas of study were Jehovah's Witnesses, taught by Lloyd Whyte; Worldwide Church of God, taught by W. B. Mitchell; and Catholics, taught by C. B. Hastings. The meeting, sponsored by the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was directed by Hollis Bryant, consultant.

Walthall Rally Promotes Coming County Crusade

Thirteen Walthall County Churches laid the groundwork for a county-wide evangelistic crusade, set for May 28-June 4, in Haspel Stadium, Tylertown, as they held a kick-off rally in Tylertown Church.

Ten of the county's pastors, speaking on various revival topics, were on program at the rally, along with

Hubert Greer, full-time musical evangelist, who presented a program of gospel songs.

Evangelist for the crusade will be Eddie Martin and the singer will be Jamall Badry. Elmer Howell, is crusade co-chairman, along with Mel C. Craft, pastor at Tylertown.

Mississippi's Lottie Moon Offering Gifts Total \$1,841,862.39

Mississippi gifts to Foreign Missions Week of Prayer (Lottie Moon Christmas Offering) are listed as received from May 1, 1977 through April 30, 1978 with 1,546 churches participating. At that time total gifts amounted to \$1,842,962.39

ADAMS BETHLE 255.00 BRIEL AVE 412.00 CALVARY 400.00 CLIFF TEMPLE 774.82 CLOVERDALE 126.56 FBC HATCHEE 4,864.95 IMMANUEL 3,506.00 MORGANTOWN 2,493.21 PARKWAY 500.00 SPRINGFIELD 100.00 STANTON 268.18 WASHINGTON 15,750.19	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12	ALCORN ANTIOCH NO 2 257.22 BETHLEHEM 50.00 CALVARY 590.58 CONCORD 1,757.65 COURT LINE 1,247.11 DANVILLE 130.65 E CORINTH 317.00 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 5,723.70 GLENDALE 200.00 HIMMEL 451.00 HOLLY 451.00 HOLLYWOOD 1,886.81 HOLLYWOOD 225.00 HOLLYWOOD 475.00 HOLLYWOOD 345.00 HOLLYWOOD 150.00 HOLLYWOOD 2,072.89 HOLLYWOOD 463.50 HOLLYWOOD 25,267.12
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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Ed McDaniel, pastor, and his family were given a love gift of \$1300 by First Church, Durant, on April 30. A member of the church had already given the pastor and his wife a paid trip to the Holy Land. The \$1300 love gift is to be used to supplement expenses of the trip. Bobby Irby, right, made the presentation. From left are Cindy, Rhonda, Deborah, Libby, the pastor, and Irby. (Photo by Charles Parkerson).

James W. Middleton, recently retired pastor of First Church, Shreveport, La., and former pastor of First Church, Clinton, will be the guest speaker for the Mississippi College 50-year banquet, Saturday, May 20. He is a graduate of MC.

Randal Ivey, sophomore at Furman University, has been injured in an automobile accident in Greenville, S. C. He is the son of Faye and Duane Ivey, former Mississippians who are now missionaries in New Jersey. Ivey's knee was hurt and the numerous cuts on his face will require plastic surgery. He and his mother were in a similar accident several years ago in which both were seriously hurt. His parents may be addressed at 14 Shorebrook Circle, Neptune, New Jersey 07753.



Lavon Hatten (right), director of missions in the Carroll-Montgomery Association, Winona, recently attended a 12 day Personal and Professional Growth Seminar sponsored by the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Brooks Faulkner (left), director of the program, said the course was designed to explore a pastor's gifts and skills in an in-depth and intensive manner.

Dorothy Lorie McElroy played in recital for Master of Music degree in Organ in Province Chapel, Mississippi College, on Sunday, April 9, at 3 p.m. A native of Lauderdale County, Miss., she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a Master of Arts degree in history from Mississippi College. She has done graduate work at the University of Southern Mississippi, Tulane University, Memphis State University, Livingston State University, New Orleans Seminary, and Mississippi College. She is presently employed at Lambuth College, Jackson, Tenn. She is married to James B. McElroy, who is music minister at West Jackson Church, Jackson, Tenn. They have two sons, Jim and Jay.

Liberty Church, Carroll County, ordained L. G. Schmitz and Charles Turnipseed as deacons, on May 7. Burton A. Schmitz, son of L. G. Schmitz, was licensed to the gospel ministry in the same service and brought the evening message. A high school senior, he plans to enter Clarke College this fall. He is available for supply preaching. Gus Garrett is the Liberty pastor.



Annual Honors Day at William Carey College, April 25, brought distinction to three ministerial students as well as to the faculty sponsor for the Ministerial Association. From left to right: John McNair, American Bible Society Award; William Clawson, Ministerial Association advisor; James Rayner, Outstanding Hebrew Student Award; and David Briscoe, the B. Frank Smith Award for Outstanding Christian Scholarship and Dedication.



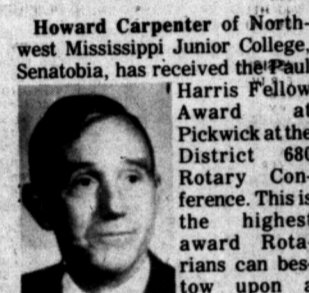
Seven From State Get Degrees

FORT WORTH, Tex. — Seven Mississippi natives received degrees during spring commencement exercises of Southwestern Seminary held at Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Tex., May 12 at 10 a.m. Seminary President Robert E. Naylor presented degrees and diplomas to 370 candidates. W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, was the commencement speaker. Mississippians who received degrees are: Susan Myron Clark, Jackson, MCM; John Russell Kyzar, Natchez, MCM; Stanley Nix, Grandview, MCM; Stanley Prine, Pendervis, MRE; D. P. Smith, Jackson, MRE; Karl Wesley Wallace, Jackson, MDIV; and Darlene Renee Porter, Foxworth, MRE, pictured left to right as listed.



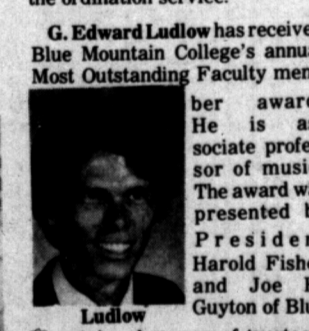
B. C. (Uncle Ben) McDaniel, left, 93, has received an 11-year perfect attendance pin in Sunday School at Bethlehem Church, Forkville. James Edwards, pastor, right, made the presentation. A member of the church said, "Mr. McDaniel is an inspiration to everyone in his community. He readily shares his testimony when called upon, as well as expressing his love for God as he walks 1/2 mile to church every Sunday. Many friends would provide transportation, but he feels this walk is good for his health. Also he often furnishes flowers for the church."

John Lee Taylor, pastor of First Church, Grenada, was guest speaker and conference leader for Metro Family Enrichment Conferences in Colorado May 1-3, at Pueblo, Denver, and Colorado Springs. Also he was on program for the Family Life Enrichment Conference held April 28 and 29 at Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wisc. The latter was sponsored by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Fellowship.



Howard Carpenter of Northwest Mississippi Junior College, Senatobia, has received the Paul Harris Fellow Award at Pickwick at the District 680 Rotary Conference. This is the highest award Rotarians can bestow upon a member. It is given in appreciation of "tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations between peoples of the world." Carpenter is one of only 30 Rotarians from the district to be honored with this award. John Loftin, President of the Senatobia Rotary Club, made the presentation. Carpenter is a member of First Baptist, Senatobia.

Rocky Holston, pastor of Neely Church, was ordained to the ministry on April 9, at his home church, Calvary in Oak Grove community. Jim Beck, Calvary pastor, preached the ordination sermon. Others on program were P. Lowery Campbell, chairman of deacons; Norman Laird, Douglas Benedict; Vernon Dale; John Earl Russell; Irvin Holston, father of the candidate; Mel Stafford; and James Earl Byrd. Holston will receive his B. A. degree from William Carey in May. He served as youth director and associate pastor at Calvary for three years before going to Neely as pastor. He will enter New Orleans Seminary this fall. His wife Angela is also a senior at William Carey. A reception was held after the ordination service.



G. Edward Ludlow has received Blue Mountain College's annual Most Outstanding Faculty member award. He is associate professor of music. The award was presented by President Harold Fisher and Joe H. Guyton of Blue Mountain, chairman of trustees.

The Board of Advisors for the Outstanding Young Men of America Awards Program has announced today that the following Mississippi men have been selected for inclusion in the 1978 edition of OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN OF AMERICA. James Ronald Boswell, Samuel Jerry Crawford, Bobby Ray Davis, Harry Noble Gipson, Algie Lavern Green, Jr., James Melvin Keith, Richard Henry Malone, Jr., Johnny Lee Self and Paul Thiboudaux.

1,500 Shrubs Given Carey-On-Coast

Carey College on the Coast recently was given more than 1,500 flowering shrubs, valued at over \$12,000 by Mr. and Mrs. Clarke B. Wilson. "We deeply appreciate this generous gift," said Acting Dean Falconer Hodges to the Clarkes who are in the nursery business on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Three New Doctors At Carey

President J. Ralph Noonkester, far right, extends a handshake to Bobby Perry, while Mrs. Elise Curtis and Kermit McGregor look on. The three were awarded honorary doctorates on May 6 by the trustees of William Carey College during commencement ceremonies. Perry is pastor of First Church, Moss Point, while McGregor, pastor of Temple, Hattiesburg, will become pastor of Morrison Heights, Clinton, this month. Mrs. Elise Curtis, of Gulfport, is a veteran of 48 years in the Mississippi Public School System and has served as president of the MEA and of the Retired Teachers Association of Mississippi.

Staff Changes

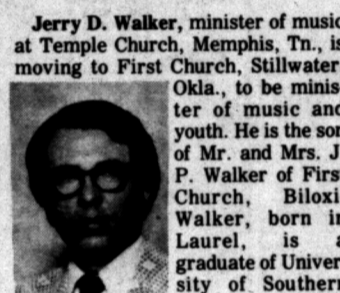
New Home Church, Smith County, has called Clifton Jones of Taylorsville as minister of music.

Mike Brown preached his first message as pastor of Cedar View Church, DeSoto County, Sunday, April 16.

First, Long Beach has called John Temple as minister of education and visitation. He is a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He grew up in Starkville. After receiving his B.S. degree from Mississippi State University he went to the Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. where he received a Master of Religious Education degree. Later at New Orleans Seminary, he completed requirements for the Master of Divinity degree.

McHenry, First Church, has called Russell Bradford as pastor. Bradford served the church as part time pastor in 1972-74. This is the first time in the history of the church that it has called a full time pastor.

Raymond A. Wilson, pastor of First Church, Bruce, since October, 1977, has resigned because of a recurring respiratory allergy condition. He will return to Arizona where he has accepted the pastorate of Morningside Baptist Church, 2900 South 8th Avenue, Yuma, Ariz. 85364. Before going to Bruce he was pastor of Trinity Church, Casa Grande, Ariz., for four years.



Jerry D. Walker, minister of music at Temple Church, Memphis, Tenn., is moving to First Church, Stillwater, Okla., to be minister of music and youth. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Walker of First Church, Biloxi. Walker, born in Laurel, is a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi and previously served Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, and Emmanuel, Biloxi.



Beyond the Ironing Board

One of the nicest blessings that I find when I awaken each morning is the singing of the birds in the trees outside the windows at our house. When I have caught up on all my other projects, I plan to try to learn enough about birds to know which kinds are singing in the yard without having to ask James. Some mornings I kind of forget to listen for them, but most mornings I remember to take the time to enjoy that blessing. It is not always easy to be conscious of our blessings, is it? Many times we are so busy that we do not even hear the blessings that are around us that do not cost us one penny. It is not only the blessings of nature that we often overlook but blessings of family and friends. The smile, the quick gesture of care and concern that a person makes toward us, the hum of a small child, the sounds of a child's playing, the bubbling of food cooking on the stove, the rumbling of a

springtime cloud, the ring of a telephone, the honk of a horn as a friend passes by, the sound of the postman's car or steps. Listening and hearing make life so much nicer. And then there is the sound of talking that we do not always really hear. Whether we are too busy, or too occupied, or too indifferent, or too stubborn, we do not always hear when someone talks to us. Listen and hear the birds, or whatever is in the air to make your life better. I believe sounds are a great part of life.

Lagos, Nigeria (RNS) — Nigerian college Bible teachers have called on the government to increase the amount of moral and religious education in the nation's schools and to make religious sources compulsory.

Area Crusade To Be At Sylvaarena

The James N. Gill Evangelistic Association will conduct an area wide crusade on May 26, 27, at the community recreation center in Sylvaarena. Mt. Pleasant Church in Smith County is the sponsoring church with the cooperation of other churches in the area. Guests for the crusade will include the Dove Quartet from Brandon; The Testimonial Trio from Pearl; Joe Wood, music evangelist and staff member of the association, and special guests from host churches. Services will begin at 8 p.m. W. T. McKay is crusade chairman.

Revival Dates

Bovina Church, Vicksburg: May 21-26; services 7:30 p.m. each evening; Randy McHan, evangelist; Kerry Rickard, music director of Bovina Church, leading the music; Mrs. Catherine Dawson and Glenda Traxler, instrumentalists; Jasper Collins, pastor.

Hillcrest, Jackson: May 21-24; services Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 12 noon and 7 p.m.; Barney Walker, Jr., vice - president for church and denominational relations, Houston Baptist University, Houston, Tex., evangelist; Don Kenyon, Hillcrest, music director; Maurice Clayton, pastor.

Gatesville (Copiah): June 11-16; Sunday morning service at 11, followed by dinner on grounds and afternoon service at 1:30; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Roger Lee, pastor of Clear Branch, Florence, evangelist; Brenda Sullivan, pianist; Richard Sullivan, music director from Flowood; Robert Magee, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Rankin): May 14-19; services Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; Chaplain J. H. Wilborn of the "Singing Policemen's Gospel Singers," evangelist; Richard Sullivan, music leader; Nick Spring, pastor.

English Classes Begin On Coast

A class in Conversational English will be offered in Gulf Coast Association weekly beginning May 25. Classes will be held each Thursday thereafter at 9:30 a.m. in the educational facilities of the First Baptist Church of Biloxi (917 Howard Avenue). Any adult who desires to learn English or improve his ability to speak the language is invited to attend. Enrollment will be at the first class meeting on May 25 at the 9:30 hour. Competent, trained teachers will lead the classes. A child care program is available during the school. No fees are charged and the program is open to everyone. Bill Garrett is director of the school and Frank Gunn is pastor of the First Baptist Church.

Briel Avenue

Marks 20th Year

Sunday, May 21, is the 20th Anniversary of Briel Avenue Church, Natchez. Twenty years ago, in May, 1958, Briel Avenue Church was organized. This followed its beginning as the South Canal Mission which had met in a log cabin on South Canal Street. Dewey Myles, first pastor has accepted the invitation to return and preach next Sunday. The schedule for May 21 will be: 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Anniversary Service; 12:30 p.m., fellowship meal; 1:30 p.m., Music and praise service. James Foster is pastor.

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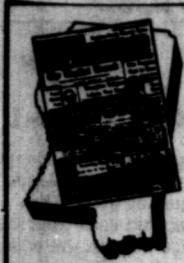
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AN ACT OF LOVE (10 min.). This 16mm color film is available free from your state convention office. To become an MSC volunteer or sponsor, write: David T. Bunch, HMB, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.



Just For The Record

HOMECOMING AT ANTIOCH CHURCH IN SIMPSON COUNTY will be held on June 4. There will be time for fellowship and dinner on the ground plus a program of music for the afternoon service. George L. Lewis, pastor, will bring the morning message. Offerings received will go toward the upkeep of the cemetery.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, Jackson, will hold annual homecoming on Sunday, May 21. The program will begin at 10 a.m. with gospel singing led by Johnny Welborn. At 11 a.m. W. R. Storie, former pastor, will bring the message. Dinner will be served at noon. Gospel singing after lunch will feature "The Gospel Travelers" and others.

MT. PISGAH CHURCH, SANDHILL, is planning for a second annual memorial service and homecoming, to be held May 28. Events will include morning and afternoon services and dinner on the ground. W. T. Dixon, Jr. is pastor.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, Route 2, Brookhaven, will observe annual homecoming services, Sunday, May 28. Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m. with morning worship at 11:00. An old fashioned dinner on the ground is planned for noon after which there will be an afternoon service. Speaker for both morning and afternoon will be Talmage Smith, a young man who grew up in the Friendship community and is a former member of the church. Smith is at present pastor of Morgan Town Church, Natchez. Harold Luther Smith, music director of Friendship, will be in charge of the music. Wiley Reid is pastor.

ARLINGTON CHURCH, Lincoln County, has bought a bus from Copiah-

Lincoln Junior College at Wesson. To be used in church-related activities. A new church steeple has arrived and is being readied for installation. New choir robes were shipped May 9. Annual Homecoming and dedication services will be held at Arlington Sunday, May 28. A former pastor, N. B. SAUCIER, will bring the morning message. Dinner will be served at the church. BOB AMMONS is pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, LOUISVILLE on May 7 burned a \$350,000 cancelled note, bringing to an end the indebtedness on the church's educational building, 6½ years ahead of schedule.

A building fund for the present facilities of First, Louisville, was begun in 1942, during the pastorate of W. L. Day. With \$150,000 on hand, the sanctuary was constructed during the pastorate of James H. Fairchild. It was dedicated Dec. 20, 1953, with an indebtedness of another \$150,000. This indebtedness was retired and the educational building was constructed during the pastorate of Vernon May, at a cost of \$475,000. The educational unit was dedicated on Aug. 30, 1964. Robert Mounts, left, pastor, and Joe McCully, chairman of trustee, burned the note.



On April 16, Mrs. Myrtis Gunter of Hickory Flat presented Flat Rock Church of Benton County a check for \$10,000 that was left to the church by her deceased husband, A. T. Gunter. Pictured are Griff Walker, pastor; Ollie Massengill, William Perkins, Earl Hunter, Ellis Bradford, Eddie Paul Thompson, deacons; Dawn Courson, grandniece of Mrs. Gunter; Mrs. Gunter; and Charles Jackson, chairman of deacons.



FIRST CHURCH, Durant held a note burning ceremony on April 30. The church paid off the balance of a note of \$80,000 on April 27 for the pastor's home built in 1975. "The church was excited about this achievement-retiring the note in three years," said Ed McDaniel, pastor. Building Committee members on hand for the note burning, from left are: Mrs. Nellie Howard, Mrs. Annis Dickerson, Roosevelt Green, Audis Hathcock, Jim Pace, Robert Ray, Mrs. Virginia Land, N. C. Hathorn, and Ed McDaniel. (Photo by Charles Parkerson).



ARLINGTON CHURCH at Bogue Chitto in Lincoln County held its second Acteen Coronation May 7 with four Queens: (front row) Jennifer Case, Shonna Nunnery, Penni Brown, and Margo Freeman; five Queens Regent (back row): Lori Case, Sheila Sasser, Robin Ammons, Lynn Reeves, and Angie Lofton. The theme was "Celebration of the Stars." Pat Jergins and Kathy Sasser are Acteen leaders.

Devotional

Be Joyful

By Clyde Little, Pastor, Forest

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11). Be joyful! It beats being happy. Happiness depends on right happenings, but even when things go wrong, you can have joy.

"I love mankind," says a famous comic strip character. "It's people I can't stand!" People can rob us of our joy. A deacon said to his pastor, "The trouble with him is that he's a thermometer and not a thermostat!" "A thermometer doesn't change anything around it, it just registers the temperature. It's always going up and down. But a thermostat regulates the surroundings and changes them when they need to be changed. He lacks the power to change things, instead, they change him."

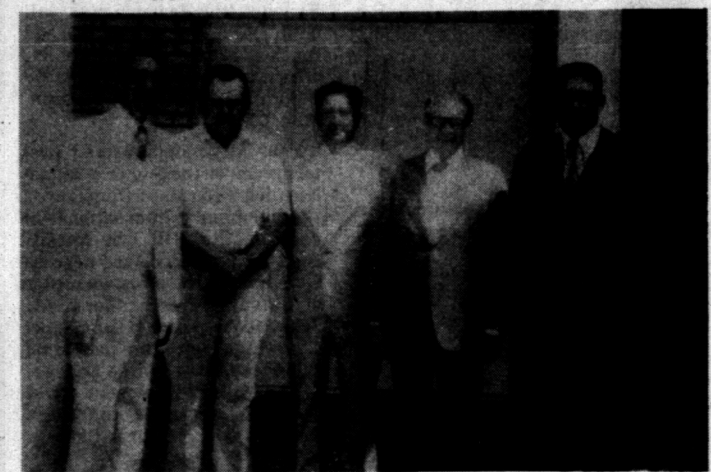
The apostle Paul was a thermostat. He was joyful. He found his joy in Christ. The secret of his findings is found in the Book of Philippians — Christ Our Life (chapter 1), Christ Our Mind (chapter 2), Christ Our Goal (chapter 3) and Christ Our Strength (chapter 4).

We must allow Christ to live in us and we must live in Christ. It takes more than example on the outside to have joy, it takes power on the inside. It is not IMITATION, but INCARNATION. The joyful life is not a series of "ups" and "downs," but a process of "ins" and "outs." God works IN and we work OUT.

Instead of having spiritual ups and downs on the situation changed, Paul went right on, steadily doing his work and serving Christ. His personal references at the close of Philippians indicate that he was not the victim of circumstances but the victor over circumstances. "I can accept all things" (4:11); "I can do all things" (4:13); "I have all things" (4:18).

The joyful do not have to be pampered to be content, they find contentment in the spiritual resources abundantly provided by Christ. Contentment is not escape from battle; it is peace within the conflict. Life for the joyful is not a series of accidents, it is a process of appointments. Joy does not depend on circumstances or things, it comes from something deeper, something apart from either poverty or prosperity.

Paul learned to be content through many difficult experiences of life. The word "content" means "contained." It is a description of the man whose resources are within him so that he does not have to depend on substitutes without. Christ lives within — what joy!



New Home Dedicates New Sanctuary

New Home Church, Smith County, dedicated its new sanctuary on April 16. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, preached the dedication sermon. He is pictured with the pastor and Building Committee. Left to right are Eddie Bryant, pastor; Claiborne Stringer; Haskel Stringer; Kelly; and James Ford. Members pledged over \$52,000 through the Together We Build program under guidance of the Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

County Line To Celebrate Sesquicentennial May 28

County Line Church, Crystal Springs, will celebrate its 150th anniversary with homecoming on May 28.

Roger Stacy, pastor, will be host for the day's program. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Taylor Wallace, former member at County Line, now pastor of Enterprise Church will be guest speakers.

Services will begin at 10 a.m. with messages and music centered around the theme "County Line for Christ — 150 years."

Lunch will be served at noon in fellowship hall. The afternoon program will begin at 1 and end at 2:30.

Former pastors, Howard McLe-more, L. C. Hoff, and R. J. Sweetman, will also take part on the program. Stan Wallace, minister of music, will direct the music.

Robert Fulbright To Discuss Bible Books Series At Grenada

Robert G. Fulbright, director of the Bible Teaching Division, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., will be in First Church, Grenada, Wednesday, May 31.

Fulbright's visit is by invitation of the pastor, John Lee Taylor, and minister of education, Alton Yarbrough. He will speak to the Sunday

School workers and other members of the church on the new Bible Book Series curriculum for youth and adults which the Sunday School Board is making available for October, 1978.

Fulbright will be in the weekly workers meeting at 6:30, and the prayer service time at 7:30. Workers and members from other churches are invited.

Life and Work Lesson

Abraham — Pilgrim Of Faith

By Bill Duncan, Long Beach, First
Genesis 12:1-13:4

Faith declares itself in the determination to be what God intended one to be. It is the basis of a deep desire; it is the foundation of life's direction. A school teacher remarked, "I have learned that when it comes to accomplishing significant things, I.Q. does not matter nearly so much as I will."

A Quaker philosopher, Thomas Kelly, wrote, "The crux of religious living lies in the will, not in transient and variable states. When the will to do God's will is present, there is a child of God."

It has often been said that what fired young Dwight L. Moody, who became America's flaming evangelist, was the statement that the world had yet to see what God could do with one person completely dedicated to Him. Moody responded within himself: "I will be that man." Faith is more than a creed or an emotion; it is the decision to obey, to follow, and to be.

In the Old Testament there were many men and women who had nothing but the promises of God to rest upon, without any visible evidence that these promises would ever be fulfilled. These promises meant so much to them that they set the course of their lives in the light of these promises. This was faith. Their faith consisted of taking God at His word and directing their lives accordingly. The concluding studies of Genesis will be a study of these "Pilgrims of Faith."

The Call of Abram

The sinfulness of mankind continued after Noah's time. God scattered the descendants of Noah to prevent more rebellion against Him. However, God did not abandon them as He had in the Garden; God pursued His purpose of redeeming man from his predicament. His purpose was to find the right man who would exercise faith toward God. Such a man was found in Abram of Ur who was wealthy and influential among the Chaldees.

Abram and his family lived in the lower Mesopotamia Valley. The area was an advanced commercial, cultural and educational lifestyle. Numerous gods were worshiped by the people. His life was that of a nomadic herdsman. Some want to think of Abram like a modern gypsy without standing and responsibility. Exactly

the opposite is true. He was a man of wealth, influence and power.

The first call of Abram came to him in Ur. Stephen in Acts 7:2 verifies this interpretation. The instructions involved leaving land, kindred and father's house. This was a sacrifice because of the close-knit families. Abram did leave Ur but carried his family with him as far as Haran.

The second call, in Haran, after the death of his father was a call to leave family and go further in the quest of faith. Abram's motive in leaving was not ambition nor lust for conquest, but the consciousness of God's presence and obedience to His commands. Abram's great faith was further displayed by the fact that the land of promise was not then known to him. He did not have a road map filled out in detail. He was to start by faith and depend on God to fill in the details later.

The Promise to Abram

After the command came the promise of what God would do for Abram as a part of the covenant or contract. This covenant was to apply to Abram and his descendants. "Cutting a covenant" (Hebrew phrase) was a solemn agreement between the new nation and God through Abram.

"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great so that you will be a blessing" (RSV). This promise went beyond personal glory or greatness for Abram as a man. He was to be blessed so that he would be a blessing. His faith was to be a symbol of what blessings could come to those possessed of a faith like his.

To promise of God would be seven-fold. (1) He would be the father of a great nation. (2) God would bless him in his own lifetime. (3) Abram himself would be a world figure (his name would be great). (4) He would be a blessing to others. (5) His blessing would be shared by those who received him, for they would declare their openness to God. (6) Those who cursed (degraded, despised) him would in that act reveal their own insensitiveness to God at work in him and invite God's wrath upon themselves. (7) His beneficial influence would be universal.

The Procedure of Abram

From Haran Abram made a positive decision to meet God's challenge. His only shortcoming was allowing Lot to

accompany him. The problem was not Abram's willingness to forsake all, but it was Lot's initiative.

When he came to Canaan, Abram chose Shechem as a place to build an altar to demonstrate the proper worship of the true God. The Canaanites were there. Their presence and pagan worship were a test of the faith of Abram.

Later, in Genesis 15:12-16, God assures Abram it will take centuries for the process to come to pass for full occupation. Remember, Abram did not know what land was to be his until he was walking upon it.

When the famine came, Abram was living near Egypt. He may have moved south to escape the idolatry of the Canaanites. Because of the famine Abram left the land God had promised him to go and live among those who were unsympathetic to his religion.

However, God was standing by protecting him. In a time of faithlessness and fear, Abram, for the sake of his life, told the Egyptian king that Sarah was his sister. When God overruled in the situation and protected his plan, Abram was whisked out of Egypt. The pagan king had shown more scruples than Abram.

Upon returning to Bethel Abram renewed his pledge to God. He wanted to return to fellowship with God whom he had forsaken during the traumatic experience of Egypt.

As surely as God had a purpose for Abram and his descendants, He also has a purpose for those of us who want to be blessed. We are a part of God's great plan of redemption.

The covenant with God says that if we will obey, follow and be, then He will bless us. Will you respond as did Moody and say, "I will be that man?"

Uniform Lesson

Gentile Conversion Acknowledged

By Hardy R. Denham, Jr.
First, Newton
Acts 11:1-18

There are times when men are called on to answer for their activities. Paul said that all men will one day have to give an account to God (Romans 14:12). However, accounting is a part of life.

Peter was called on to answer for the mission to Cornelius (Acts 10). The report of the mission spread like wildfire throughout all Judea (Acts 11:1). Such an experience was unheard of to the staunch Jewish-oriented members of the Jerusalem church.

I. The Vision — Verses 4-10

Luke's report of the housetop vision is recorded in Acts 10:9-18. Peter was on the roof of Simon's house in Joppa when he fell into a trance. He saw a large sheet filled with all manner of animals being lowered from heaven (verses 5-6). Then he heard a voice telling him to kill the animals and eat (verse 7). Doing as the voice commanded would have meant a violation of Jewish dietary laws (Leviticus 11).

Peter refused to obey the instructions, affirming his strict adherence to the law (verse 8). The instruction to kill and eat unclean animals was given a second and third time (verses 9-10).

The vision was designed by the Lord to prepare Peter for the mission to Cornelius. Jews had very little dealings with Gentiles. According to Jewish rituals, a Jew became ceremonially unclean by coming into contact with Gentiles. Further, a Jew would not go into a Gentile's house. The mission to Cornelius would obviously demand contact with Gentiles. Thus the Lord was leading Peter to recognize he must not call any man unclean.

II. The Venture — Verses 11-14

Peter related to the Jerusalem church how he was led to go to Cornelius. He told them about the messengers sent to him by the centurion (verse 11) and how the Holy Spirit told him to have no hesitancy about going (verse 12). Peter also related how Cornelius had been led to send for him (verses 13-14).

The apostle wisely took others with him. Peter knew that what he was

doing was out of the ordinary and that there would doubtless be some repercussions among the more staunchly Jewish element of the church.

Peter's report emphasized that what he had done was not a move on his part to break with tradition and defy the code which had governed Jewish conduct for years. Instead, he acted in response to God's instruction as given both his vision, and the angel's message to Cornelius. Traditions can be either good or bad. However, the Christian must never be so tied to tradition that he closes his ears to the voice of the Lord. Far too many times churches have refused to venture out into new areas of service because they have been so rigidly committed to tradition and the methods of the past. It is sad to see that businessmen who are progressive and innovative in their vocations can be so reluctant to make changes and launch new ventures when it comes to the church. The Lord's work demands the willingness to adopt newer and better techniques and ministries. Just because something has never been done before is no

reason that it should not have been done, or that the time for change has come.

III. The Victory — Verses 15-18

The apostle completed his report to the church by telling of the conversion of the Gentiles. He said the Holy Spirit came on Gentiles just as He had on Jews (verse 15). The church remembered their own Pentecost experience, and Peter said the Gentiles also had one. Stressing the sameness of the Gentiles' experience with their own, Peter asked, "Who was I to think that I could oppose God?" (verse 17).

The Jerusalem church then recognized that the Lord had indeed been the instigator of the mission and had saved the Gentiles (verse 18). Tragically, however, they accepted God's act as a one-time experience. The Greek verb indicates that the church accepted only the conversion of Cornelius and his household, not that the Lord would save all Gentiles who believed.

The power of the gospel is adequate for all men. It is not Christ plus something equals salvation, but Christ alone.

